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**ROSEVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO 46 MONTHS PRISON
IN CONNECTION WITH \$4 MILLION INVESTMENT FRAUD SCHEME**

SACRAMENTO, CA - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott and California Corporations Commissioner William P. Wood announced today that JEFFREY L. PICKETT, age 55, of Roseville, was sentenced to nearly four years of imprisonment for masterminding a large-scale investment fraud scheme related to the Roseville-based business previously known as Nutrition Marketing, Inc.

The case was the product of an extensive investigation conducted by the California Department of Corporations, the Roseville Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

United States District Court Judge William B. Shubb sentenced defendant JEFFREY PICKETT today to a term of imprisonment of 46 months. He also ordered PICKETT to pay restitution of \$3,055,000 to the victims of the offense, and ordered the defendant to serve a three-year term of supervised release following his imprisonment.

According to S. Robert Tice-Raskin, the Assistant United States Attorney who prosecuted the case, between late 2001 and October, 2002, defendant JEFFREY PICKETT, acting as President of Nutrition Marketing, defrauded a series of investors in connection with a business venture to manufacture and distribute a high-protein nutrition drink. As part of the fraudulent scheme, defendant made a series of false representations to numerous potential and actual investors. For example, PICKETT falsely promised investors that in return for an initial investment of approximately \$1.5 million, investors would receive an investment return in excess of \$20 million. In fact, none of the investors received the promised investment return. PICKETT also falsely represented that Nutrition Marketing had entered into a distributorship agreement with Nestle S.A. Corporation ("Nestle") under which Nestle acquired the exclusive rights to distribute the high-protein nutrition drink worldwide and agreed to pay PICKETT \$150 million in return. In fact, Nestle had not entered into any agreement with PICKETT or Nutrition Marketing. In addition, PICKETT provided investors with purported Nestle bonds and other documents to substantiate these representations. In fact, the bonds and documentation were fictitious documents created by the defendant himself. As part of the scheme, PICKETT intended to cause a loss to investors of \$4,820,000. Ultimately, investors suffered an actual loss of \$3,055,000.

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